



Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Meeting Minutes - Final Board of Water Commissioners

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Wednesday, August 21, 2019

2:00 PM

5th Floor Board Room, Water Board Building

BOWC Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Blackmon called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Commissioner Linda Forte, Commissioner Lane Coleman, Commissioner Mary Blackmon, Commissioner Jane Garcia, Commissioner John Henry Davis and Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Michael Einheuser

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Blackmon requested the approval of the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Blackmon requested the approval of June 19, 2019 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that the minutes approved. The motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. [19-00236](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Office of the Deputy Director and Customer Service

Attachments: [Kathy Green](#)
[Sylvia Bell](#)
[Clarence Clavon](#)
[Tanya Glover](#)
[Belinda Walls](#)
[Matilda Taylor](#)
[Robert Bruce](#)
[James Williams](#)
[Andre Brooks](#)
[Freda George](#)
[Doris Carswell](#)
[Vernetta West](#)
[Paul Stephenson and Angy Webb](#)
[Sarah Feldman](#)
[Sharon Sexton](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [19-00239](#)

Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Redacted FOIA Request 6-15-19 to 8-16-19](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. [19-00241](#)

Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Memo to BOWC re MOU with DHD](#)
[MOU w DWSD Signature](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

Follow-up Items

- a. Joshua Ronnebaum of 19410 Lucerne-Pending
- b. Sonya Bennett of 1420 Washington-Pending
- c. Storm Drains on Seminole-Pending
- d. Pastor James with Community Focus Group came before the Board to came to

express concern about an article in Bridge Magazine that talked about water shut offs and how it has affected the citizens of Detroit. He strongly believes that the Department needs a water affordability plan, and there should be a moratorium on water shutoffs.

e. Lateisha Jones 8259 Piedmont came before the Board seeking assistance due to her water service being interrupted. She stated that she has been denied by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP). Ms. Jones was referred to a customer service specialist.

f. Buelah Walker of Hydrate Detroit came to advocate for Donna Riggs and Lateisha Jones who need water service.

g. Demeeko Williams of Hydrate Detroit came before the Board about a client who needs water service. He said over fifty percent of their clients are in shut off status and cannot afford the astronomical water bills. He also said he sent communication to the Department about increasing outreach and collaborating on how to stop water service interruptions.

h. Valerie Glenn of Hydrate Detroit stated that she was very disturbed about the Bridge Magazine article. She is asking that the Department work with organizations to establish an affordable water plan. She said that the plan in place is not sustainable for the citizens of Detroit.

i. Diamond Woods with Hydrate Detroit came before the Board about the high volume of shut offs within the city. She stated that this is not just a cleanliness problem but a systemic racism matter.

j. Serretha Bond of 2636 Marquette came to the Board because her water is off and has been off for the past two months.

k. Dennis Leeney of 11523 Bramell came to the Board because he has been without water due to a huge water bill.

l. Christine Wynn of 19760 Littlefield came before the Board about her water bill account.

m. Cindy Darrah of 492 Peterboro submitted written communication for a response.

n. Bonnie Whittaker of 20425 Charleston came before the Board about late fee charges.

o. Diana Riggs of 12701 Indiana came before the Board regarding a water service interruption.

7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

There were none.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were none.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items AI - AV)

- I. [19-00222](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Contract No. 6002259 for a term of three years in an amount not-to-exceed \$348,430 to purchase Traffic Barricades and Cones through Ace Restoration**, and also authorizes

the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

II. [19-00223](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Contract No. 6002260 for a term of two years in an amount not-to-exceed \$200,000 to purchase Elgin Street Sweeper Parts, and Maintenance and Repair Service through Bell Equipment Company**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

III. [19-00224](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Contract No. 6002290 for two years with OW Investors LLC, dba Mars Company to provide a large meter test bench upgrade for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$568,700** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. [19-00225](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Contract No. 6002319 for five years with Pronto Pest Management Inc. to provide pest control services for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$352,146** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- V. [19-00226](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 2 to add \$180,960 in funding, for a total amended contract amount of \$535,920 and to add two additional years to the contract term for Personal Service Contract No. PS-1785 with Leslie King (Contractor)**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. **DIRECTOR'S METRICS**

- A. [19-00242](#) **Director's Report**

Sponsors: Office of the Director

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 08212019](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed

11. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

There were none.

12. **COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

There were none.

13. **OTHER MATTERS**

There were none.

14. **CLOSED SESSION**

Entered into closed session at 3:04 p.m.

- A. [19-00240](#) Approval of a meeting with legal counsel in closed session pursuant to Section 8(e) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and Section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute, specifically a consultation with General Counsel regarding pending litigation.

Sponsors: Pospiech

A motion was made by Commissioner Davis , seconded by Commissioner Forte that this Request for, Closed Session be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Forte, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Blackmon, Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Kinloch

RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

Returned from closed session at 3:54 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia to return from closed session be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The only matter discussed was privileged attorney-client communication. No action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Blackmon requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.